

## House Resolution No. 1991

**Whereas**, it is with special pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to acknowledge the legacy of César E. Chavéz, an American labor leader who organized the California grape pickers into the first important farm-workers union in the United States; and

**Whereas**, born in Yuma, Arizona, on March 31, 1927, Chavéz grew up in a series of migrant labor camps in Arizona and California and dutifully served his country in the United States Navy during World War II from 1944 to 1945, following which he returned to migrant farm work; and

**Whereas**, Chavéz joined the Community Service Organization (CSO) in San Jose, California, in 1952, and led voter registration drives, helped Chicanos with immigration problems, and organized CSO chapters in other cities before becoming general director of the CSO in 1958 and resigning from the organization in 1962 when it refused to create a farm-workers union; and

**Whereas**, Chavéz began to organize the National Farm Workers Association in 1962 and had enrolled 1,700 families in the organization by 1965, the year his union joined migrant Filipino grape pickers in a strike against the growers that lasted for several years; and

**Whereas**, the union, now called the United Farm Workers (UFW) and affiliated with the AFL-CIO, organized boycotts of nonunion farm products under Chavéz's leadership; and

**Whereas**, on April 23, 1990, César Chavéz signed the IMSS agreement with the Mexican government allowing Mexican farm-workers in the United States to provide medical benefits to their families in Mexico; and

**Whereas**, the recipient of Mexico's Aguila Azteca and the United States Medal of Freedom, César Chavéz died from natural causes in San Luis, Arizona, on April 23, 1993; and

**Whereas**, César E. Chavéz Day will be held April 19, 2003, and will feature the unveiling of the commemorative César E. Chavéz stamp, announcement of the first César E. Chavéz Scholarship in the State of Missouri at Central Missouri State University, and a One-Mile March honoring the life of César E. Chavéz:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join together will all Missourians in acknowledging the numerous contributions César E. Chavéz had made to the labor movement and farm-workers throughout the United States and Mexico, and in paying tribute to him as a new commemorative stamp is unveiled in his honor; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for César Luis Chavéz, grandson of the late César E. Chavéz.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Sharon Sanders Brooks

District No. 37

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 1991, adopted April 18, 2003.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker